



Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

Norwalk, OH

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The City of Norwalk was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Norwalk (population 16,238), located in north central Ohio, is the county seat of Huron County. Originally settled in 1809, Norwalk has been known as a manufacturing town since the arrival of the railroad in 1853. By the late 1800s, rail yards, foundries, and furniture manufacturers formed the backbone of the local economy, giving way to the trucking and automobile industries in the 1900s. With a few exceptions, many of these operations no longer exist. Dozens of acres of land that were once rail yards or abandoned railroad lines intersect the city's residential and commercial neighborhoods. Abandoned gas stations, bulk storage facilities, former truck terminals and other potentially hazardous sites are situated throughout the city. They reflect the



Assessment Grant



\$200,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected the City of Norwalk for a brownfields assessment grant. Petroleum grant funds will be used to conduct community outreach activities, perform six to eight Phase I and three to five Phase II environmental site assessments.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 5 Brownfields Team

312-886-7576

<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: City of Norwalk, OH
419-668-9858

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

economic distress in Norwalk. The city's performance on key economic indicators, such as the unemployment rate, poverty level, and average household income, is below the state averages. Since 2002 alone, Norwalk has lost more than 1,300 jobs in the manufacturing sector. Statistics from the Ohio Department of Health indicate that Norwalk has a higher incidence of both pediatric and adult asthma than the state. Assessment of the brownfields properties will help the city better address the health and safety concerns of the community. Eventual cleanup and redevelopment of these sites will leverage new jobs; result in recreational, commercial, and residential reuse; and expand the local tax base.